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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 1414TH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 28 May 1993, at 11 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea)

- Organization of work
- Participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee
- Pacific Regional Seminar away from Headquarters in connection with the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

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The meeting was called to order at 11.40 a.m.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK (A/AC.109/L.1795)

The CHAIRMAN: Members have before them, in document A/AC.109/L.1795, the report adopted by the Open-ended Working Group at its 7th meeting on 26 May 1993.

The report was prepared by the Working Group after extensive consultations. May I therefore suggest that we consider the text as a whole?

It was so decided.

The report was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: Since the Subcommittee has not yet concluded its work, I would suggest that it take into consideration the relevant provisions of the report in its formulation of its conclusions and recommendations to the Special Committee.

I wish to thank Mr. Bangali for chairing the drafting committee meetings and all the members for their contribution in producing the recommendations that have just been adopted.

As members will be back at Headquarters by the middle of June and the Special Committee is to commence its summer session on 7 July, as indicated in the programme of work which has been circulated to all members in aide-memoire 9/93, I would urge all delegations to start thinking about the resolutions and decision and to hold regional consultations in advance relating to the drafts on foreign economic interests, military activities and specialized agencies, on which the Committee will need to take action, keeping in mind the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Open-ended Working Group.

PARTICIPATION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES IN THE WORK OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to inform the Committee that the Bureau has considered requests for reimbursement by representatives from Non-Self-Governing Territories, and we have one outstanding request in regard to which the Bureau was unable to reach an appropriate conclusion. I therefore wish to put it before the Committee, in line with the Guidelines (A/AC.109/L.1791, annex) accepted by the Committee on requests by representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories for funding. In this regard I wish to refer to the request by Dr. Corbin in relation to his participation in the Committee's work.

I request the Secretary of the Committee to advise the members of that case.

Mr. DE SOUZA (Secretary of the Committee) (interpretation from French): The Bureau considered Dr. Corbin's request, which was distributed to all members of the Committee in accordance with the guidelines adopted by the Committee and the General Assembly. The Bureau met twice to deal with the question, but was unable to reach the unanimous consent necessary for approval of the request. The Guidelines applicable in this case are available here for representatives. Since the request has been circulated, members of the Committee can take a decision on it.

The CHAIRMAN: I suggest that the Committee agree to reimburse Dr. Corbin for his attendance at meetings of the Special Committee and the Subcommittee.

It was so decided.

Mr. BANGALI (Sierra Leone): While admittedly we have agreed to reimburse Dr. Corbin with respect to his participation in the work of the Committee, you will agree, Sir, that the Bureau encountered certain difficulties, specifically because of language in part B of the Guidelines, "Approval of requests for funding", reading

> "In the latter case, such approval will be given only after the request has been circulated to the members and has encountered no objection". (A/AC.109/L.1791, annex, para. 5)

In the Bureau, we encountered one objection. We are of the view that the language should be replaced, perhaps with the wording "endorsed by the majority", so that objections by one or two delegations do not stall the work of the Bureau or the Committee.

Mr. SENILOLI (Fiji): In view of the decision to reimburse Dr. Corbin, despite the fact that there was an objection in the Bureau, my delegation agrees with the suggestion made by the representative of Sierra Leone.

Mrs. KING-ROUSSEAU (Trinidad and Tobago): My delegation supports the proposal just made by the representative of Sierra Leone. But, looking at paragraph 5 of the Guidelines, my delegation is of the view that the other outstanding request can be discussed by the Special Committee. Paragraph 5 states:

> "Requests for funding shall be approved on a case-by-case basis by a decision of the Special Committee when in session". (Ibid.)

The paragraph goes on to say, in effect, that when the Special Committee is not in session the Bureau will need to discuss the request. But we are now in session, so it is the view of my delegation that we should consider the outstanding request.

(Mrs. King-Rousseau,
Trinidad and Tobago)

Members of the Committee have repeatedly drawn attention to the fact that there is a dearth of information on the Territories. An elected representative of the Turks and Caicos Islands came before this Committee and addressed all members. In addition, he circulated a document that provided detailed information on the Territory. It would be most unfortunate if, having obtained that information, we then delayed the implementation of a decision the Committee took months ago. My delegation believes that we should consider that outstanding request.

The CHAIRMAN: I am pleased to inform the representative of Trinidad and Tobago and the other members of the Committee that the Bureau has decided also to reimburse the representative to whom reference has just been made.

Sierra Leone has proposed an amendment which has been supported by three members of the Committee. If the Committee endorses the amendment, it will go for final decision to the General Assembly, with the report of the Special Committee.

I would request the representative of Sierra Leone to repeat the text of his proposed amendment.

Mr. BANGALI (Sierra Leone): I am proposing the replacement of the words "and has encountered no objection" in paragraph 5 with wording providing for endorsement by the majority of members. The reason is that, increasingly, we are meeting with objections from a certain delegation or perhaps two delegations whenever the Bureau deliberates. If we require 100-per-cent approval, then the Bureau will never arrive at a decision. The Secretariat could work out the language that would best reflect this thinking.

Mr. DIARRA (Mali) (interpretation from French): I think the procedure we have just employed is also valid: failing unanimity in the Bureau, the question comes before the full Committee. It is a sensitive issue of financing, and such matters should be dealt with within the limits of a specific budgetary framework. However, I support the proposal of Sierra Leone.

The CHAIRMAN: I would request the Secretary of the Committee to provide us with appropriate language in line with the proposal by Sierra Leone and the sentiments expressed by Fiji, Trinidad and Tobago and Mali. I understand that the Secretariat will need some time to do this. When the proposed amendment is ready it will be put to the Committee at a subsequent meeting. This will also give members time to reflect on the matter. May I take it that the Committee agrees to that procedure?

It was so decided.

PACIFIC REGIONAL SEMINAR AWAY FROM HEADQUARTERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

The CHAIRMAN: I also wish to remind members that the Pacific regional seminar will take place from 8 to 10 June in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. As soon as all consultations have been concluded regarding the participants, I shall circulate that information to the members. I urge members from the Latin American and Caribbean Group to consult further on the participants in the seminar, as we do not yet know which two Committee members from that Group are to take part. Today is the last working day available to us, and in order to facilitate arrangements it would be useful for me to have that information today.

The meeting rose at 12 noon.